

Local broadcasting stations need to be able to determine the content of their programming they provide to the community. Programming should not be forced on the collective public by a company which has a financial stake in the upcoming election. One-sided programs like "Stolen Honor" are purely election advertising and do not represent news or balanced journalism, and are harmful to our democracy.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.